

The month of May always holds special meaning to me as Mother's Day approaches. Though my mother is no longer with us, I can't help but reflect on all the wonderful values she represented, and the impact she had on my life. My mother was a strong woman who served as a great role model as wife, mother, grandmother and sister. She recognized the importance of a woman's role in her community to be a voice and advocate for children. She served as PTA President; she was a team mom, and active volunteer. I can recall her words as she encouraged me to run for student government in school, and then again for political office. But most importantly, she was a guiding light in my personal faith and relationship with God.

Women in our society have to deal with so many diverse roles today. For some being a wife, a mother, and part of the labor force add to a very demanding lifestyle. I commend women for their role in our society as they look to help provide for their families, nurture their children, and help to maintain a sense of strength and fortitude in the family unit. I see this firsthand in my wife of 36 years, Sue, who has been able to juggle all these very important tasks in an exemplary manner, much like many of you in our community.

Though many children today suffer from the absence of a mother and the unique qualities that women represent in a child's life, collectively we hope to protect and guide the most vulnerable in our community.

After launching a series of community forums where mothers and other interested residents had the opportunity to express their concerns regarding unsafe "Pathways to Schools" and other important issues, it was time for me to take action. I initiated an Unincorporated Transportation Study to address areas in need of drainage improvements, road widening, new sidewalks and general safety improvements for children commuting to our schools.

Fortunately, I was able to bring home an unprecedented amount of funding for specific road projects in the unincorporated areas of the Fourth District to the sum of \$4 million dollars. This constitutes one of the largest appropriations for road improvements in our District's history.

Projects approved as part of the appropriation include the streets of: Chino Avenue, Pamela Drive, Pipeline Avenue, as well as Roswell Avenue & Christina Road.

I look forward to continuing the fight alongside residents in helping to create a safe and nurturing environment for the residents of our community.

Happy Mother's Day.